

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An airbag apparatus comprising:
 - an airbag;
 - a retainer to which the airbag is attached;
 - a module cover covering the airbag, and being configured to move backward toward the retainer, and which has a projecting portion on the back surface thereof; and
 - horn switches which are turned on when the module cover moves backward, wherein a reinforcing member is attached to the projecting portion and covers an exposed end portion of the projecting portion, the reinforcing member having protruding tabs which are continuous with the reinforcing member and which face the back surface of the module cover at a peripheral region around the projecting portion,
 - wherein the retainer has brackets which extend from the retainer and which face the protruding tabs, and
 - wherein the horn switches are interposed between the protruding tabs and the brackets.
2. (Original) An airbag apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member extends along the end edge of the projecting portion, and wherein the protruding tabs are integral with the reinforcing member.
3. (Original) An airbag apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each protruding tab is arranged between the bracket corresponding to the protruding tab and the back surface of the module cover, an elastic member being interposed between the bracket and the protruding tab and urging the bracket and the protruding tab away from each other, a guide shaft for guiding the backward movement of the module cover being fixed to one of the bracket and the protruding tab and extending through a guide-shaft-insertion hole provided in the other one of the bracket and the protruding tab, and a stopper being provided on the guide shaft so that

said other one of the bracket and the protruding tab is prevented from being released from the guide shaft.

4. (Currently Amended) An airbag apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each protruding tab is arranged between the bracket corresponding to the protruding tab and the back surface of the module cover, and a spring is positioned between the bracket and the protruding tab being connected to each other with a leaf spring.

5. (Original) An airbag apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein a point around which the module cover tilts and the peripheral edge of the module cover are at approximately the same height from the retainer in the direction of the backward movement of the module cover.

6. (Original) An airbag apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein a point around which the module cover tilts and the peripheral edge of the module cover are at approximately the same height from the retainer in the direction of the backward movement of the module cover.

7. (Currently Amended) An airbag module comprising a cover configured to move to activate a horn switch;

wherein the cover includes a projecting portion connected to an airbag retainer, ~~and~~
wherein the projecting portion is reinforced to prevent the projecting ~~member~~ portion
from separating from the retainer,

wherein the projecting portion is reinforced by a reinforcing member that covers an exposed end portion and a side portion of the projecting portion,

wherein the reinforcing member includes protruding tabs, and

wherein the protruding tabs are continuous with the reinforcing member and face a back surface of the cover at a peripheral region around the projecting portion.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)